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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,506	12/03/2003	Choong-Jae Lee	P-0604	5025
34610	7590	10/05/2006	EXAMINER	
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP P.O. BOX 221200 CHANTILLY, VA 20153			DABNEY, PHYLESHA LARVINIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/725,506

Applicant(s)

CHOONG-JAE LEE

Examiner

Phylesha L. Dabney

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,8-11,17,20-25 and 29-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,6,7,12-16,18,19 and 26-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/26/05, 1/7/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the application filed on 3 December 2003 in which claims 1-31 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims **20-25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 20 recites the limitation "the protrusion portion" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an

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international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-11, 17, 20, 25, and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Choi (U.S. Patent No. 7,006,854).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claims 1 and 3, Choi teaches a housing for a display module of a mobile terminal, comprising: an upper cover (2); a lower cover (4) configured to be attached to the upper cover; a display module (12) disposed between the upper cover and the lower cover, the display module comprising at least a sub display (6) and a main display (8); and a buffering member (16) disposed between at least a portion of the upper cover and the sub display and configured to prevent an external force applied to the upper cover from being transmitted to the display module.

Regarding claim 5, Choi teaches the housing of claim 2, wherein the buffering member is adhered to either the rib or to the sub display (col. 3 lines 35-42).

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Regarding claim 8, Choi teaches the housing of claim 1, wherein the upper cover (2) comprises a protrusion portion (26, 34) which extends upward from a circumferential surface of an opening portion of the upper cover.

Regarding claim 9, Choi teaches the housing of claim 1, wherein the lower cover (4, 22) is configured to be rotatably connected to a main body of the mobile terminal.

Regarding claim 10, Choi teaches the housing of claim 1, wherein the buffering member (16) comprises a first buffering member disposed between an inner surface of the upper cover (2) and an upper surface of the sub display (6), wherein the first buffering member is configured to absorb an impact generated by a vertically applied force on the protrusion portion.

Regarding claims 11 and 17, Choi teaches the housing of claim 10, wherein the buffering member further comprises a second buffering member (20) disposed between an inner surface of the upper cover (2) and an upper surface *of the main display* (8) of the display module (12), wherein the second buffering member is configured to absorb an impact generated by a laterally applied force on the protrusion portion.

Regarding claim 20, Choi teaches the housing of claim 1, further comprising a first reinforcing member (30) disposed at an inner surface of "a" protrusion portion (26, 34) of the upper cover and configured to reinforce a strength of the protrusion portion of the upper cover.

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Regarding claim 25, Choi teaches the housing of claim 20, further comprising a second reinforcing member (fig. 7, 30) disposed at an inner surface of the lower cover (4) and configured to reinforce a strength of the lower cover.

Regarding claims 29 and 30, see the rejection of claim 1.

Regarding claim 31, Choi teaches a mobile terminal, comprising: a main body (col. 3 lines 51-52); and a housing (fig. 5) configured to be rotatably attached to the main body, the housing comprising: an upper cover (2); a lower cover (4) configured to be attached to the upper cover; a display module (12) comprising at least a sub display (6) and a main display (8); and a reinforcing device (26, 28, 30, 34) configured to reinforce a strength of the housing, comprising a first reinforcing member (26, 34) integrally adhered to an inner surface of the upper cover, and a second reinforcing member (28) integrally adhered to an inner surface of the lower cover.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4, 6-7, 12-16, 18-19, and 26-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 21-24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Remarks

Requirements for information under 37 CFR 1.105(a1) is being invoked. In the course of examining or treating a matter in a pending or abandoned application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 or 371 (including a reissue application), in a patent, or in a reexamination proceeding, the examiner or other Office employee may require the submission, from individuals identified under § 1.56(c), or any assignee, of such information as may be reasonably necessary to properly examine or treat the matter.

In this instance, the Examiner is requesting that a copy of foreign patent KR 10-2002-0038013, which was patented by LLG Electronics Inc. (this Application's assignee), be submitted.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phylesha L. Dabney whose telephone number is 571-272-7494. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8:30-4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:
(703) 273-8300, for formal communications intended for entry and for informal or draft communications, please label "Proposed" or "Draft" when submitting an informal amendment.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:
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Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

September 21, 2006

PLD


CURTIS KUNTZ
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